

## Did you know...



"Vocabulary" is knowing the names of things, and it is developed as you help your child build words out of letters and letter sounds. Most children enter school knowing between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Developing a strong vocabulary helps your child as they learn to read.

When you think about it, you know that you are reading a word correctly if you have heard it before. The more words children hear, the more ready they will be to make connections between sounding out words and knowing they're saying them correctly.

**The best way to help your child build vocabulary is to talk and read with them.**

## Here's how...

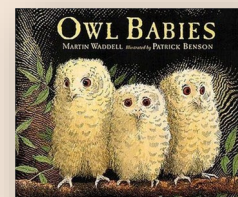


- ✱ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ✱ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations and more than even children's television programs.
- ✱ Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings, and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- ✱ Look for books that teach concepts, such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. These are things your child should know before they begin kindergarten.

## Read



### ***Owl Babies*, by Martin Waddell**



When three baby owls awake one night to find their mother gone, they can't help but worry about where she is. What is she doing? When will she be back? What scary things move all around them?

Other books by Martin Waddell:

*Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?*

*Let's Go Home, Little Bear*

*You and Me, Little Bear*

*Sleep Tight, Little Bear*

*Farmer Duck*

## Choosing Books



### **More books to help your preschooler's vocabulary:**

*Bear Came Along*, by Richard T. Morris

*Bright Star*, by Yuyi Morales

*Coquí in the City*, by Nomar Perez

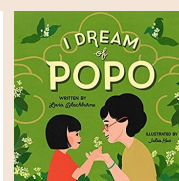
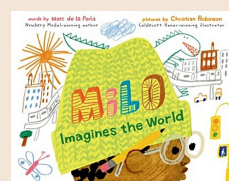
*I Dream of Popo*, by Livia Blackburne

*Inside Cat*, by Brendan Wenzal

*Milo Imagines the World*, by Matt de la Peña

*Outside In*, by Deborah Underwood

*We All Play*, by Julie Flett



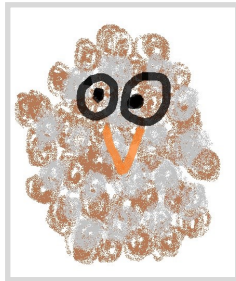


It's normal for children at this age to feel worried when they are separated from their parents. Let them know it's ok to feel worried, but you will always come back. It may help to create a special routine or ritual with your child when it's time for you to leave, such as singing a special song, or doing a special hand clapping routine. Let them know when you'll be back, using events rather than clock time. "I'll be back after afternoon snack," or "I will be back after bedtime, but I'll come in and give you a kiss."

## Write



Here is an activity to help develop fine motor skills: Give your child a clothespin to pinch a cotton ball, then dip cotton ball in paint. Let them dab a piece of paper to make art. To make an owl baby, dab in more or less of a circle, then when the paint is dry, draw eyes and a beak with a marker or crayon.



## Play

**Action Rhyme: Wide-Eyed Owl**

There's a wide-eyed owl (*make fingers in large circles and cup over eyes*)

with a pointed nose, (*use fingers to make a triangle & point out for nose*)

Two pointed ears (*use fingers for ears*)

and claws for toes. (*wiggle fingers like toes*)

He lives in a tree (*point up to tree top*)

And when he looks at you (*point up to someone*)

He flaps his wings (*use arms for wings, and flap*)

And he says, "Whoo-whoo!" (*continue flapping wings*)

**Owl Song**

*To the tune of London Bridge Is Falling Down*

Flap your wings and fly around,  
fly around, fly around.  
Flap your wings and fly around, just like an owl.

Open your eyes big and wide,  
big and wide, big and wide.  
Open your eyes big and wide, just like an owl.

Land on the ground and hop along,  
hop along, hop along.  
Land on the ground and hop along, just like an owl.

Turn your head and say whoo-whoo,  
say whoo-whoo, say whoo-whoo.  
Turn your head and say whoo-whoo, just like an owl.



Hear the tune at

<https://kcls.org/content/London-bridge>

**At your library...**

Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are committed to helping every child get a great start, succeed in school, and create lifelong learners. **Libraries are for everyone!**